

# MASON'S Coin Collectors' HERALD

VOL. III.

JUNE, 1881.

NO. 1.

## SALE OF AUTOGRAPH LETTERS.

A fine collection of autograph letters, signed, was offered at public sale by Sullivan Bros. & Libbie, Boston, March 22, 23, 24. In this collection were many rare and valuable lots, and the prices realized were very satisfactory to the owner, Marvin M. Jones. Mr. Jones presented a very interesting story of his struggles in making the collection, as a preface to the catalogue, and it deserves to be embalmed for future generations of autograph hunters to discuss. We take the liberty of inserting here the interesting statement as aforesaid.

### PREFACE TO AUTOGRAPH CATALOGUE.

These autographs,—more or less of them,—have been my pets for more than an ordinary lifetime. Over forty years ago, I began with two autographs, one, that of Gov. George Clinton, valuable; the other of no value. My first plan was to procure the autographs of the Governors of New York,—cut signatures,—but among my early trophies was a "Washington," and before I had secured all the Governors, I had half the Presidents. Autograph collectors know exactly how the disease progresses; amputation is the only remedy, that omitted, the disease and life go out together.

Autograph collectors have ever been persecuted by a set of brainless bigots. Their weapons have been ridicule and sarcasm. They have no sentiment nor veneration. One of the "thirty pieces of silver" paid to Judas would not be quite as valuable as a new quarter of a dollar, especially if the "half shekel of silver" happened to be worn. The shekel which Peter took from the fish's mouth in Galilee, would only be taken at its value for spoons.

The autographs in this catalogue are all believed to be genuine. In England, France, and the United States, I have intended to deal with honest, reliable men. Prices have fluctuated, wars and revolutions have made common and cheap those previously scarce and dear.

I always encourage young men who have arrived at the "seed-time" of wild oats to "collect" something,—autographs, coins, postage-stamps, Indian relics, old books, geological specimens, old china, old clocks,—something old and venerable. It is a great protection

from the pack of vices, which, like a pack of bloodhounds, are on their path.

H. G. said, "young man, go West."—I say, "young man, collect." The collecting of autographs is as interesting as any; no one can ever make a perfect collection, and the collector can expend money as liberally as his purse will allow.

For forty years I have had an immense amount of enjoyment in collecting and arranging these autographs. I have pasted, bound up, built up, and torn down. It is far easier to obtain autographs, than to classify and arrange them satisfactorily when obtained.

I am now collecting in another direction, and say good-by without a pang, hoping you will add as much to the pleasure of others as you have to my own.

M. M. J.

## A GRAND CHANCE.

In an obscure junk-shop in Baltimore there now lies rusting the iron prow of the famous steamer *Merrimac*, that destroyed two frigates in Hampton Roads during the Rebellion, and was a menace to all the commerce and seaport cities of the Union until worsted in the memorable conflict with the *Monitor*. The prow, or ram, weighs only about 1400 pounds, and could doubtless be purchased for a few cents per pound.—*Philadelphia Ledger*, April 29.

We recognize in the above item an "old friend." Having seen service about Fortress Monroe during the memorable conflict *last past*, and from our stand-point in that service, viewed the steamer *Merrimac*, including that noted prow, we always feel an interest in anything appertaining to the aforesaid vessel. A few years ago, a gentleman in Norfolk wrote to *MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE* that he had recovered the iron prow of the steamer *Merrimac* (broken off and lost in her conflict with the vessels named in the above item), and wanted to sell it *cheap*. Here was a chance for a relic, and not being selfish, we published the gentleman's letter and address and gave our readers an opportunity to secure the "wonderful curiosity." But, it seems, that old iron prow is not sold yet, and now it turns up in an old junk-shop in Baltimore. 1400 pounds is said to be its weight now, but when offered to us it was nearer a ton weight; thus does time scale down the





## REMINISCENCES OF A COIN DEALER.

NEW SERIES, No. 1.—THE LITTLE FRENCH NUMISMATIST.

BY E. MASON, JR.

Many of the early coin collectors of Philadelphia will remember the indefatigable coin dealer and collector, "Old Daddy Brechemin," whose jewelry and coin store was located in Second, below Dock Street, some twenty odd years ago. Brechemin was an ingenious mechanic who had invented a variety of useful and fancy toys worked by clock springs, and added to his various employments the sale of watches, clocks, and everything pertaining thereto, as well as repairing the "time-pieces" of the citizens with whom he had cast his lot, having left France and settled in Philadelphia many years previous. Brechemin was very fond of coins, medals, gems, curiosities, and antiques of every name and nature. Well do we remember our first visit to the old-fashioned jewelry shop of the eccentric Frenchman. It was in the Spring of 1860, when the writer was located as a coin dealer at 453 North Second Street, in this city. We had picked up on one occasion, by purchase, a most beautiful example of the 1793 U. S. cents; an uncirculated light olive piece, which cost us about two dollars. Hearing that Brechemin was completing a series of the copper cents, and lacked some of the earlier dates in fine condition, we jumped on a Second Street horse-car and rode directly down to his store, about a mile distant. Upon entering the establishment of the keen-eyed dealer we discovered him in the act of buying coins from a chance visitor, and, as usual, had a tray containing his best cents displayed on the top of a large show case. We watched the proceedings with interest.

BRECHEMIN (*to stranger*).—"Ah, sar, you get me ze coin like that (pointing to a beautiful line of cents on his tray) and I give you vara mooch for him."

STRANGER.—"How can I get coins fifty years old like new?"

B.—"Oh, you mus' look him up in ze what-you-call-him 'corner-store,' behind ze mantel-shelf, and in ze closet-room on ze farm-house, sar."

The stranger finally accepted an offer from the dealer, and departed, when the keen-witted Frenchman looked up over his spectacles at the writer.

B.—"Vat sal' I do for you, sar?"

We informed him that, as a coin dealer in the northern part of the city, we had called to establish friendly relations, and, if possible, sell him some coins.

B.—"Vel, ven you can bring me ze fine peecees—vara fine—mooch like new, I vill buy him."

COIN DEALER (laying down the uncirculated 1793 cent).—"Here, sir, is a fine coin, entirely unworn,—beautiful olive color,—known as the wreath variety,—how much will you give for it?"

B.—"I give you vat you ask, if it is not vara mooch. Vill two dollars buy him?"

DEALER.—"No, sir: I want a five dollar bill for that cent; it is better than any one on your tray, and a beautiful olive color."

B. (takes the cent, pays the money, and picks up a tooth-brush).—"Now, ve vill see vat you call ze olive—you see I make him bright like new—ze devil take your vat you call ze olive color,—I make him bright red, see?"

Unfortunately, we *did see*; we saw the misguided little Frenchman brush off the light olive color, and with it brush off ten dollars or more of value, which sum he or his heirs might have realized, in addition to cost, in a few years afterwards. Mr. Brechemin died at a ripe old age, in 1866, and his famous collection of cents were sold in the year following by the auctioneers, Davis & Harvey (then on Walnut Street, now on Chestnut Street), and every cent was red and bright, *all had been cleansed*, and the beautiful olive color which originally covered his splendid set of cents, had, like himself, departed, both equally mourned by numismatists, and the cents were sold to W. W. Long, of museum notoriety, for one hundred and forty dollars, whereas if the olive color had been undisturbed the price paid would have been several hundred dollars more. Upon another occasion, when visiting the kind-hearted and vivacious dealer, we extolled in glowing language a beautiful 1799 cent we had picked up, something after the following style:

DEALER.—"Ah, Mr. Brechemin, you should have seen the magnificent 1799 cent we sold yesterday."

BRECHEMIN.—"Yesterday! That is *passé*. Vat have you got *now*? Vat have you to-day?"

Nothing could irritate the Frenchman more than to tell him *what you had*. Alas! we shall never look upon his pleasant face again. As a dealer, Mr. Brechemin was just and liberal, and could not tolerate triflers under any circumstances. At his death he left vast quantities of duplicate dates of 1793, 1799, 1804, and 1809, and other rare dates of cents, as well as boxes of uncirculated U. S. silver dollars of 1798 and 1799, having a passion for those particular dates. In addition, he left a large collection of coins and medals, a portion of which were sold in 1867, and the balance are now about to be offered at public or private sale. Among the unsold portion is the very collection of cents alluded to in this remembrance (re-purchased by the heirs from W. W. Long), and an 1858 proof-set, together with many valuable rare coins and medals; also, a Jefferson-head cent of 1795. The coins consist of about 3000 pieces, and will create an interest among numismatists generally. We trust the heirs to the Brechemin estate will hurry up the sale, ere the hot weather is upon us and the "coin boom" silent.

## "OUR HOME." VOLUME I, No. 1.

This really excellent 16-page monthly, published by D. A. K. ANDREWS, has been received from Rockport, Ill. *Our Home* is devoted to all the sciences, and is well worth the subscription price, 50 cents per annum.

# MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

QUARTERLY.

TERMS: - - - \$1.00 per Annum in Advance.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE, 1881.

## HISTORY OF UNITED STATES COINAGE.

LAWS RELATING TO COINS AND COINAGE, FROM  
1792 UNTIL 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

(Continued from March Number, 1881.)

### THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1795.

This act provides, that among other things, for making copper money lighter than it has been.

The following changes were also made by this act in the charges for coinage:

For assaying and coining silver deposits, two cents an ounce, if of standard fineness, and four cents an ounce for gold; but if the bullion was so far below standard fineness as to require the test, the charge was to be six cents per ounce.

These charges were unwise, causing bullion to be sent to other countries for coinage, and preventing it from being brought to the United States.

### THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 1, 1798.

The three years named in the act of 1795, during which foreign coins were to be legal in the United States, at the valuations made in said law, being about to expire, and the United States Mint, not having yet supplied the nation with gold and silver coins, this act provides that the valuations of most of these coins, fixed by the law of 1795, should be continued three years longer, but for three years only. This act changes some of the valuations of the previous acts.

### THE ACT OF APRIL 24, 1800.

This act provides for the purchase of copper, to coin cents and half-cents.

### THE ACT OF APRIL 10, 1806.

This act renews the acts of 1793, 1795, and 1798, relating to foreign coins, making certain small changes therein, and limiting again their legal tender to three years, as under the former acts.

### THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 29, 1816.

This act renews the act of 1806, relating to the valuation of foreign coins, for three years.

It continues the former valuation of British and Portuguese gold coins, but changes the valuation of some others. French gold is changed from 27 $\frac{3}{4}$  grains to the dollar to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$  grains to the dollar. The French crown is changed from the valuation of 110 cents to 117 cents. The 5 franc from 93 cents to 93 cents and 3 mills.

### THE ACT OF JUNE 25, 1834.

This act made silver dollars of Mexico, Peru, Chili, Central America, and Brazil, of not less weight than 415 grains, legal tender at their nominal value. The Spanish dollar had always been full legal tender for 100 cents, and was, as to weight of the silver therein, adopted as the unit of the money of account by the United States.

Under this act, 5-franc pieces, of not less fineness than 10 ounces and 16 pennyweights pure silver in the pound of 12 ounces, and weighing not less than 384 grains, were made legal tender for 93 cents and 3 mills, as under the law of 1816. The valuations made by this law were to continue for three years only.

### THE ACT OF JUNE 28, 1834.

This is the great coining act, changing the relation between gold and silver in the United States. It does not in the least change the quantity of silver in the silver dollar, or in any way relate to silver, except so far as gold relates to it. It is a gold act only. It abolishes the relation of gold and silver made by the law of 1792, which, with the laws relating to the valuation of foreign coins, had almost depleted the United States of gold. But this law goes to the opposite extreme. While the law of 1792 undervalued gold, causing it to leave the country in exchange for silver, the act of 1834 overvalued it, and caused all the Spanish, Mexican, Central American, and South American silver coins to leave the United States, in exchange for gold.

Had the legal relation between gold and silver been made by this law 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  of silver to one of gold, as in Great Britain and France, this withdrawal of silver would not have taken place until the demand of 1850 and 1851 for Australia. But the law of 1834 made one ounce of gold equal to 16 ounces of silver, and rendered the purchasing of silver with gold a profitable operation for European countries.

One pound of gold in the United States would purchase 16 pounds of silver, instead of 15 $\frac{1}{2}$  pounds, as in Europe.

(To be Continued.)

## REMOVAL.

Our patrons are requested to take notice of the fact that we have removed to the new store, No. 32 North Thirteenth Street, and laid in a fresh stock of coins, medals, relics, curiosities, etc. We have also added, at our new quarters, the business of stamp-dealing, and opened a department for buying and selling used and unused Foreign and American Postage Stamps, Albums, Flags of all nations, Portraits of the world's rulers, etc., etc. Mr. C. Edward Mason has taken entire charge of the stamp department, and will give prompt attention to all philatelic correspondence, orders, etc. Send for circulars and lists of packets, etc.



## TO SUBSCRIBERS FOR VOL. III.

According to promise made in Vol. II. of our paper, each paid subscriber to Vol. III., has received, or will receive, with this issue, our "New Coin-Priced Catalogue for 1881," containing prices paid and asked for all American coins, paper currency, etc., etc.; also the gold plated medal, struck at U. S. Mint, in this city. All new subscribers are entitled to the catalogue and medal.

We are pleased to acknowledge the following additional subscriptions, and more than pleased to know that the subscribers to Vol. II. have, with but two exceptions continued their subscriptions; quite a number, to use their own language, "as long as published."

## NEW SUBSCRIBERS.

F. H. JAMES,	ED. L. WEIK,
H. G. HOGENDOBLER,	T. C. CUNNINGHAM,
EDWARD RUNNELL,	BRUCE PERLEY,
AMBROSE PIET,	WM. POILLON,
C. R. PALMER,	W. J. THAYER,
G. L. FANCHER,	GEO. B. FRENCH,
F. G. FARWELL,	MRS. T. J. KNEELAND,
J. A. HOLLOWAY,	G. MANTZ BESANT,
H. R. NORTON,	R. PITTIS & SON,
MISS S. MILLER,	J. H. EATON,
PHINEAS ADAMS,	B. T. WALTON,
R. COLTON DAVIS,	W. T. CURTIS,
A. DOHRMANN,	COL. R. WETHERILL,
H. W. MCKOON,	E. S. SMITH,
GEO. F. RALPH,	A. BREUGGERMANN.

## APOLOGETICAL.

Owing to removal and the entire remodeling of our business, fitting-up and furnishing a new store, and absence on two eastern and one western trip, our plans for a monthly publication of the HERALD were defeated. The continued receipt of new subscribers and patrons from various portions of the United States, warrant us in saying the change in publication is merely a question of time and convenience.

## U. S. STAMPS WANTED.

Adhesive stamps of the following values and issues:  
 1847, 5 and 10 cents.  
 1851, 1, 5, 10, 12, 24, 30, 90 cents.  
 1861, '66, 1, 2, 5, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 90 cents.  
 1869, 1, 2, 6, 10, 12, 15, 24, 30, 90 cents.  
 1870, 24, 90 cents.

Official stamps of the Departments of Agriculture, Executive, Justice, and State (all kinds); Post Office, 10 cents; Treasury, 7 and 24 cents; War, 7 and 90 cents; War envelopes, all kinds. 1853 envelopes and stamps. Send the envelopes whole; don't cut the stamps off.

C. EDWARD MASON,  
 32 North Thirteenth Street, Philadelphia.

## NUMISMATIC CORRESPONDENCE.

ALLEGHENY, PA., April 26, 1881.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.:

Your address revives the past. In 1859 or '60, I had a brief correspondence with a Mr. Mason, who published the "Coin Collector's Manual." Is the face which adorns the title page of your catalogue the same Mason? or is the picture simply an ornament? Is it the genuine coin which has resisted the corrosion of time and has not dimmed with age? *Such pieces are quoted rare*.

Permitting people to make selections from my long-neglected collection, has played the mischief with it, and now, when the interest revives, I have to purchase. Please send me cents 1793, 1799, 1804, 1809, and half-cents 1793, 1796, and if there is a balance, some of the rare half-cents in the forties. I hope it will not be long till I can write more to your satisfaction and profit, for I sadly need your help numismatically.

Do you know, or will it be news to you, that the Confederate States half-dollar is owned in Pittsburg? I had it in my hands a short time since, and I felt like the fellow who was permitted to *smell the cork*. The piece cost its present owner only fifty dollars. "*Luck's a fortune, ain't it?*"

The inclosed dollar is for Vol. III. of the HERALD.

Respectfully yours,

L. D. McC.

(REPLY.)

Your letter recalls vividly the good old times, when Cogan, Idler, Brechemin, Kline, Mickley, Davis, and a hundred others, were actively engaged in numismatics. Some of the parties have deceased and some are still in harness, "Mason" among the number. Yes, the writer is the same lipped with whom you corresponded twenty years ago. The "Coin Collector's Manual" you refer to, was in the nature of a "Coin Priced Catalogue," dated 1860, and published at our old store, 451 North Second Street, this city. Of the Philadelphia coin dealers of twenty years ago, but one remains in the coin business, and that one is Mason. Pittsburg is, indeed, in luck, if in possession of the only genuine 1861, C. S. A. half-dollar that can be traced of the four actually coined by the Confederate Government. It is worth fully one thousand dollars.

Thanks for subscriptions and orders.

EDITOR.

KNOXVILLE TENN., April 20, 1881.

MESSRS. MASON & Co.:

I have an old Bible, one of Wickliffes's translations, sold originally for \$1500. There are entries of births, etc., as far back as 1684. A few leaves in the book are gone, with this exception, well-preserved. Dark and yellow with age. Is it worth anything? I can get an old German Bible, Luther's translation, size, about 18 x 24, printed on one side of the sheet. German text. Is it worth anything?

Respectfully,

FRANK P. WRIGHT,

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

(REPLY.)

We deal only in early American imprints. Perhaps some of our readers may wish to secure the books you name. EDITOR.

## CHAT WITH CORRESPONDENTS.

R. W. S., PITTSBURG.—Have sent sample copy. Have you the 1796 and '97 half-dollars? If so, is the 1796 the sixteen or fifteen stars variety? We wish the address of collectors having the 1804 dollar, 1796 and '97 half-dollars, and 1802 half-dime. Would like also to have the different varieties of the above described.

G. W. R., PITTSBURG.—We want information of the progress of your Numismatic Society. Can you supply it? Have written you concerning the Thomas & Sons' sale of April 25.

H. W. MCK., LONG EDDY.—Thanks for renewal of subscription. With this number we send medal and catalogue free of expense. Will be pleased to see you any time.

G. F. R., UTICA.—Sent you 1881 proof set, and 1855 half-dime. The account is very nearly square. Did you credit the 1822 dime and half-dime sent you—one at \$6, the other at \$4?

## POSTAGE STAMP CORNER.

*All correspondence relating to postage stamps, albums, etc., and all contributions to this department of the Herald, should be addressed to*

C. EDWARD MASON,  
No. 32 NORTH 13TH STREET, PHILAD'A., PA.

## JAPANESE POSTAGE STAMPS.

Japan has used the modern rectangular stamps for letters for the last ten years, and postal cards are in common use throughout the country. If any of our readers want samples of the used "Tea-Chest" postals, full of those "Young Hyson" and "Imperial" characters, resembling those found on Chinese tea-boxes, they can find them at this office: but we cannot undertake to decipher the addresses or the communications thereon without being liable to arrest as soon as we step upon the shores of Yokohama.

## ISSUES OF THE PAST YEAR.

[Translated from French Advertis.]

Bhore has now stamps of six denominations; the half-anna is an oval, printed in green on white; the one anna is rectangular, of the same color. The other values are printed in black on colored paper; two annas on mauve, four annas on rose, eight annas on green, one rupee on yellow.

A Bahawalpore revenue of the first issue is printed in red on white paper.

The Bermuda postal cards have a crown printed in the center, surrounded by the words "Bermuda Post-Office." We are told that the cards are of two colors, and that the stamps are adhesive, applied the same as to letters.

Bolivia has a five-cent orange fiscal, perforated.

The new Brazilian postal cards, five in number, were issued in December last, printed in colors, on white, thin paper. Twenty reis, carmine, for inter-transit, as also the eighty reis, orange, and the 20 x 20 reis, carmine, while the fifty reis, blue, is for the postal union, as is also the 50 x 50. In addition to these cards, a new issue of stamps is being prepared, and as fast as the old ones are used up will be issued for use. These stamps are due to M. Sobrady, Director of the Mint at Rio Janeiro. The types, although smaller, resemble those of the United States. These stamps are printed in colors, on white paper, perforated,—fifty reis, blue; one hundred reis, green; and two hundred, rose violet, have been received.

Bulgaria is issuing a new series of fiscal stamps.

Cape of Good Hope has an eight-shilling fiscal, small green stamp.

Ceylon warehouse stamp, head of Victoria in circle.

United States of Columbia have a ten-cent, red-brown on azure paper; also, one peso, printed in red on white.  
—Our Home.

## MASON'S POPULAR STAMP PACKETS.

## FIVE-CENT PACKETS.

Each packet contains eight stamps, in good condition. Price, 5 cents each, or the twelve packets for 50 cents. There are no duplicates, and purchasers of the whole series will get ninety-six stamps, all different, for only 50 cents.

No. 23 contains stamps from Austria, New South Wales, Roumania, etc.

No. 24 contains stamps from Greece, Wurtemberg, France, etc.

No. 25 contains stamps from Baden, Italy, Russia, Victoria, etc.

No. 26 contains stamps from Belgium, New Zealand, Denmark, etc.

No. 27 contains stamps from India, Hungary, Canada, etc.

No. 28 contains stamps from Luxemburg, Queensland, Bavaria, etc.

No. 29 contains stamps from Portugal, Switzerland, Navy Department, etc.


No. 30 contains stamps from South Australia, Sweden, Russia, etc.

No. 31 contains stamps from Spain, Barbados, Norway, Switzerland, etc.

No. 32 contains stamps from Cape of Good Hope, Holland, Austria, etc.

No. 33 contains stamps from Hamburg, Rome, Great Britain, etc.

No. 34 contains stamps from Finland, Tasmania, Prussia, etc.

 One packet, 5 cents, or the twelve for 50 cents.

## TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKETS, WITHOUT DUPLICATES.

Each packet contains twenty-five stamps, in good condition. 25 cents each, ten packets, \$2.00. There are no duplicates, and purchasers of the whole series will get two hundred and fifty different stamps for only \$2.00.

No. 35 contains stamps from Alsace and Lorraine, Austria, Hanover, Queensland, etc.

No. 36 contains stamps from Antigua, Austria, Italy, Justice Department, etc.

No. 37 contains stamps from Bermuda, Heligoland, Ceylon, Holland, etc.

No. 38 contains stamps of Brazil, Spain, Hong Kong, Natal, etc.

No. 39 contains stamps from Japan, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, etc.

No. 40 contains stamps from Naples, Hungary, Peru, Lunbeck, etc.

No. 41 contains stamps from Madeira, Orange Free States, New Granada, Norway, etc.

No. 42 contains stamps from Sandwich Islands, New Zealand, Russia, Prussia, etc.

No. 43 contains stamps from Roumania, Servia, Tasmania, Spain, etc.

No. 44 contains stamps from Porto Rico, Turkey, Venezuela, Western Australia, etc.

 One packet, 25 cents, or the ten for \$2.00.



## NUMISMATIC EXCURSIONS.

NEW SERIES, No. 1.

Railroad and steamboat traveling during the months of March and April is not very pleasant in this latitude, and when we term our peregrinations "excursions," some margin must be allowed for the imagination; but relief from the confining duties of a retail coin store, a change of scenery, and a pleasant exchange of views with our subscribers and collectors, generally make these periodical trips through the country partake of the nature of an excursion; hence the title. In March, we made our usual tours through Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, on the one hand, and Delaware and Maryland on the other; but our extended trips were reserved for April,—cold, dismal, disagreeable, windy, sleety, icy-cold month that it was,—and we left on the morning of Tuesday, April 12, for New York; going thence to New London, Conn., Worcester and Lowell, Mass., Nashua, Manchester, Concord, Fishersville and Hillsboro, N. H.; returning *via* Boston, Springfield, Albany, and New York. In New York we visited friends Brown, Scott, Sampson, Newton, Richardson, Smith, Davidge, Wilson, and Harvey, exchanging cents and sentiments of a less numismatic character; exhibited beautiful specimens of the early gold eagles, half-eagles, quarter-eagles, and a fine pair of silver half-dollars dated 1796 and 1797 (bought these in New England for \$60 each); also, fine quarters, dimes, half-dimes, cents, colonials, etc. Had the luck to secure a good 1797 half-dollar, among the mountain farms of New Hampshire, for \$30. Stopped in Manchester long enough to secure a few fine cents, colonials, and autograph letters. In Worcester early the next morning, too early to see O'Flynn and our friend Roberts, but not too early to secure a set of postage and fractional currency.

What a curiosity is the Worcester Railroad Depot, with its clock tower! Were it not too bulky we might have purchased it for a curiosity. The sitting-room resembled a concert-hall after a performance, with its benches at all angles but the right ones. Economy of space was not a desideratum with the architect and owners of this peculiar structure. There are some fine collections of coins in Worcester, and some gentlemanly collectors.

On to Nashua, where antique stores abound and old clocks bring more than the original cost. Picked up some Washington relics here, and buttons from the Washington Body Guards of Revolutionary times.

From Nashua to Manchester, taking dinner with that warm numismatic enthusiast, Phineas Adams. We spent a pleasant hour or two looking over some of Mr. Adams' beautiful United States gold coins and admiring his series of very fine cents, etc. After visiting our regu-

lar customers, and securing a few subscribers for our paper, from a few beginners anxious to be posted on coin matters, we journeyed on to Concord, where we met the Knight Templars of the latter city, escorting a Manchester Chapter of the Masonic Order to the depot, after a remmon and parade.

On to Hillsboro', through a severe snow-storm. Met friend Eaton, and passed the evening looking over his collection. Eaton is the "Village Blacksmith," who has gained quite a knowledge of the science of coins, and has a handsome cabinet of coins, medals, currency, etc. Mr. Eaton regaled us with some choice newly-made maple-syrup, splendid cider, butternuts, and choice apples, all of which were highly relished. He exhibited to us an 1817 United States cent, with fifteen stars, *incused*,—a beautiful uncirculated specimen, and unique beyond a doubt.

From Hillsboro' to the "Mast Yard," where King George III., prior to the Revolution, secured his spars for the English navy, branding with a hot iron all suitable for importation to England. Here, at the station, we were met by that prince of good fellows and New Hampshire numismatists, Ned Runnells, accompanied by his cousin, to whom we are greatly indebted for kind favors and generous treatment. Friend Runnells gave us a sleigh-ride to his farm-house, about two miles away, and after a splendid dinner, such as one can only get in the country, we were driven to Fishersville, about five miles distant from Concord and the Mast Yard. At the former city we met collectors Moore, Haines, and Dr. Graves; passed a pleasant time in a really romantic town, beautifully situated among mountains, rivers, and other wonderful natural scenery. Mr. Moore, the talented machinist, has a residence mounted on a rocky prominence, overlooking the rushing, whirling, mad-dened waters, and we earnestly wished we could sit at his second-story window and cast our lines in pleasant places and catch some New Hampshire fish or a severe cold. We envy brother Moore his delightful location, right near the heart of the town, a bridge, a falls, and everything (including snow in April) to make it odd, cool, attractive—in fact, *unique*. One strange thing appeared to us, which was, that each collector in Fishersville had his favorite dealer; one was a customer of Hazletine's, one of Scott & Co.'s, one of Hartzfeld's, one of Randall's, and one of Mason & Co.'s. Not one would trade with any other dealer, or send bids to sales except through their favorite. We did not solicit trade or seek to win a share, beyond what was already ours, of the business of either collector named; but we did exhibit some fine things in the American line.

We left Fishersville with regret, as we liked the place; and, however much we would like to live anywhere else except among the mountains of New Hampshire, yet, if we had to choose, omitting Manchester, we should select Fishersville, and would want to own Moore's beautiful little cottage.

### SPLENDID ELECTROTYPES FOR SALE.

A few copies of the finest known original U. S. copper cents and half-cents, and other pieces have been recently secured. We will send, *postage free*, the following, viz.:

1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 cents . . . . .	\$0.25
1793, 1796 half-cents . . . . .	25
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